

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #12
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

Date: 8/19/2015

Reporting Period: 8/18/2015 0700 – 8/18/2015 1900

1. Introduction

1.1 Description of Threat

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

2.1 Operations Section

EPA had a follow up discussion with NMED on both short and long term criteria as proposed in their submission. EPA requested that NMED provide clarification on some elements of their recommendations. EPA will continue collaboration with NMED.

Data Posting to the Web

The Irrigation Ditch Sediment sample data from August 13, 2015 is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/>.

Community Meeting/VIP

No Community Meetings or VIP visits are scheduled.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/18/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	9	154
Calls Concerning R6	2	57
Calls Returned by R6	7	57

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the seventeen Well Water Test Scheduling calls, seven of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

TOPIC	DATE: 08/18/2015	OVERALL TOTALS
Well Water Test Scheduling	1	18
Water Concerns	0	7
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	0	4
Tourism/Media	0	1
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	0	14
Contractor/Vendor Support	1	6
Daily Totals:	2	57

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA will the private well sampling effort on August 19, 2015. Fifteen teams consisting of NMED, EPA, and EPA Contractors are sampling in order to have additional data while the August 10-16, 2015 sampling data is being validated.

EPA is currently drafting a joint state/EPA letter to notify the private well owners about their test results from the State's water fair initiative and EPA's private well sampling when those results are available for reporting.

Date	Number of Private Wells Sampled
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
TOTAL	114 Distinct Wells

Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar is operating on slow flow capacity due to the turbidity generated in the setline ponds when the water tankers first filled the ponds. As of the evening of August 18, 2015, the ponds were clearing out, in addition, the operators are having to backwash more than normal to keep sediment out of the filters. EPA is coordinating with NMED and the water system about taking special samples or resuming their normal compliance sampling for coliforms in the distribution system to check on the quality of the treated water.

AUGUST 19, 2015 UPDATE TO SITREP - EPA continues to provide on-site assistance to Morningstar, August 19, 2015. When the water was being pumped from Farmington to the Morningstar tank the evening of August 18, 2015, a slip joint had to be fixed. When the line pressure reached 110 psi, there was a blow out that occurred under Wildflower Road. No one was injured, the operator crew scrambled to stop traffic, close the street, and secure the area. The morning of the 19th, the crew will place a mega-clamp on the line and restart the pump. The hope is that the current system's infrastructure will hold so that the pressure can reach 110-140 psi in order to fill the Morningstar tank. The operators will sample and disinfect the line per their normal operating procedures for fixing line breaks.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	8/18/2015	Total to Date
River Surface Water Samples	9	105
River Sediment Samples	9	82

Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	Total to Date
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	59

Agriculture and Livestock Water

At this time, there are no additional requests for water or hay deliveries. The team spent August 18, 2015 retrieving tanks from farms.

	8/18/15	Total to Date
Farmers Served	0	28
Gallons to Farmers	0	1,068,270
Livestock Farms Served	0	31
Gallons to Livestock Farms	0	36,720
Hay/Alfalfa Pickup	0	244 bales

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll	EPA Cumulative Expended Travel	EPA Cumulative Other Charges	Cumulative Contract Costs	TOTAL Cumulative Costs Expended	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
EPA	\$221,940.00	\$53,650.00	\$11,854.56	\$1,138,139.16	\$1,425,583.72	\$156,920

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
USFWS
NMED
ATSDR
NM Department of Health
NM Office of the State Engineer
NM Department of Game and Fish
County of San Juan – New Mexico

4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	18
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	7
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	8
Region 6 Contractors in Field	25